

site of Howard Palmer's old Bishops' camp. From Glacier Circle, the usual climbs were made, including Fox, Hasler, Augustine, Wheeler and Kilpatrick, the last two being climbed by the same party in one day. To speed up climbs to the south and facilitate the pack over to Mitre Creek, the Deville Cliffs were well ironed and a fixed rope was rigged up. From Mitre Creek, several climbs were made in the western portion of the Purity Range, two of which, I believe, were first ascents. These were the two major peaks (ca. 9,800 and 10,000 feet) on either side of Purity Pass and between Mounts Kilpatrick and Purity. We have tentatively named these mountains "Pristine" and "Vestal," respectively. Both were predominantly snow climbs and presented no significant route finding problems. Mt. Purity itself was climbed directly from the north—a ridge climb, and a new route, I believe, which entailed going over a 10,000-foot subsidiary peak en route to the summit.

TED SCUDDER

*Northern Selkirks.* August 1955 saw the Northern Selkirks under siege by a group of eight climbers, including Graham Matthews, David Michael, and Richard Irvin. The initial phase was the air drop of supplies at Tangier Summit and on the Sir Sandford Glacier, followed shortly by the ground forces who, finding their supplies at Tangier seriously damaged by enemy bears, pushed on rapidly to the primary objective: the Sir Sandford and Adamant areas. Sir Sandford yielded to no less than three different assault teams, though other elements found the southeast ridge impregnable. After bad weather defeated one attack on Big Blackfriar, Michael and Matthews, in a brilliant counter-thrust, succeeded in putting a new route on the East Face. In other skirmishes both Silvertip and the Gargoyle fell before the onslaught of the invading forces. The decisive engagement of the expedition took place on the slopes of Palisade Mountain; though well defended by goats almost to the very summit, it, too, succumbed to its first human invaders.

GRAHAM MATTHEWS

*Niut I, Coast Range.* Victor Josendal, Harvey Manning, and Robert Sipe, all from Seattle, climbed Niut I (9,082 feet) during the second week of July 1955. We reached the summit of this unclimbed peak near Lake Tatlayoko after a day and a half backpack and a long snow and rock climb. In the second half of our week's scouting trip we drove our car over the still unfinished MacKenzie Highway across the Coast Range, down into the beautiful Bella Coola valley to the fishing village of Bella Coola. Ours was the first passenger car from outside British Columbia to drive over this road, which surely many climbers will use in the future to

reach the snow-clad peaks of the Bella Coola Range, which rise majestically 8,000 feet above the valley floor. It is expected that the highway will be in fair condition for travel in 1956.

VICTOR JOSENDAL

*Homathko, Essex, and Queen Bess, Coast Range.* This fine area at the northern tip of the Homathko Snowfield had attracted us since we read the late Don Munday's *Canadian Alpine Journal* account of his first ascent in 1942 of Mt. Queen Bess. He referred to the pointed peak of Homathko and the stately neighbor of Bess, Mt. Essex, both about 10,000 feet high. Six of us flew to Tatlayoko Lake on July 16, 1955. We were Elfida Pigou, Denys Lloyd, Donald Cowie, Derek Fabian, his wife Janet, and I, all of the Alpine Club of Canada. After landing us at the lake, the plane free-dropped our supplies near the lower edge of the Mantle Glacier. We packed in light the 12 miles to the Base Camp at the head of Stonsayako Creek. We took a whole day to cross flooded Nostetuko (or Mathew) Creek and two more for the sidehill bushwhack.

After a reconnaissance we climbed Homathko Peak on July 21. The route was the obvious one: behind the east ridge, up a snow gully to a rotten rib which led to the summit ridge. The rock was rotten and often steep. We crossed many steep gullies with soft snow over ice to reach the peak in 11½ hours. The next day we moved to a camp above steep slabs at 6,500 feet on the north side of the Stonsayako. From it on July 23 we climbed Essex via the south ridge in 12 hours. The going was easy, over four minor summits to a final very steep 600 feet of snow. We made the second ascent of Mt. Queen Bess on July 24. The route followed the edge of the Mantle Glacier in an anticlockwise circle to the foot of the previously unclimbed northwest ridge. The rock was good, and we followed the ridge all the way, reaching the summit snow ridge in about eight hours, where we joined the Munday route. It took another hour to the summit.

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